

MASTER GARDENER RECOGNITION DINNER SET FOR JANUARY 10

All Master Gardeners and Master Gardener Interns are invited to come together for the Recognition Dinner and January NETMGA meeting at the Gray Community Center.

The 2004 Master Gardener class will be presented with their permanent U.T. Master Gardener ID badges and recognized as certified Master Gardeners. Interns from the 2005 class will be recognized as having completed their class room requirements and beginning their internship toward certification.

Please bring a covered dish to share. We will gather at 6:00 and dine at 6:30. Join us for some fun, food, and fellowship!

Directions: From either Kingsport or Johnson City on I-26 (formerly 1-81) take the Gray exit number 42 (Also Hwy 75). Turn right at end of exit ramp, and go to the town stoplight and turn left on Old Gray Station Rd. After several hundred yards, turn left on Gray Station Rd (Sittin Bull Restaurant on your left) and proceed approximately ¼ mile and turn right on Gray Ruritan Road. The Gray Community Center is second building on left beside Fire Hall.

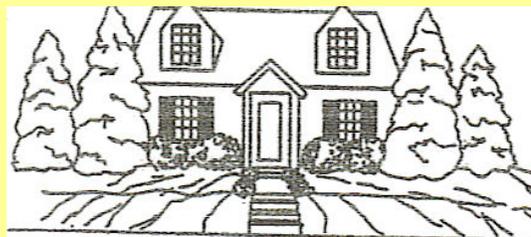
March NETMG Program: Landscape Design

Kenneth P. Soergel will be conducting a program on Landscape Design at our Tuesday, March 14 meeting, to be held at the Gray Community Center. (Refer to directions above for January meeting).

Ken is currently a resident of Jonesborough and holds a BSLA from Pennsylvania State University and MLA from Harvard. He was an Adjunct faculty member in Landscape Studies at Chatham College, Pittsburg and was Associate Professor in Landscape Horticulture for 13 years at University of Maryland. Ken has 25 years professional experience as owner/manager of design build/maintenance landscape company and has been a registered Landscape Architect since 1969.

Ken presented his Landscape Design program to the Fall 2005 Master Gardeners class and it was very

popular with class members. Interest was expressed in additional Landscape Design classes. If a minimum of 10 (or more?) members at the March meeting are interested in continuing these sessions, then a sign up and 2 additional sessions may be added. The 2 additional classes would be conducted the last 2 weeks in March. We're happy Ken has agreed to this program for us and fortunate to have someone with his credentials and experience in this area. For more information and details, please mark your calendars to attend our March 14 meeting and Ken Soergel's interesting and informative presentation. Connie Dean lcdean@chartertn.net



Chris' Corner



CHRIS RAMSEY
SULLIVAN COUNTY
EXTENSION AGENT

Another year of growth for the Northeast Tennessee Master Gardener Program! Thanks to each of you, we were able to document 5975 ACE hours and 1475 CEUs. These ACE hours are valued at \$101,575.00, using the rate per hour given by a national volunteer organization. Being able to report this impact to our legislators goes a long way in keeping our funding. Keep up the great work!

There has been some confusion about "ACE" hours and CEUs. Remember, "ACE" stands for administrative, community, and education. Administrative is any type of hour involving Extension programming, including the MG program; community is any type of hour that directly benefits the community; education is any type of volunteering where you are involved with the preparation or implementation of an educational program.

CEUs are continuing education units. These are accrued at the rate of 1 CEU per 1 hour of formal instruction. This includes any type of formal educational program, including tours and sit-down programs. Self-guided tours or other types of self-guided instruction such as magazines, books, internet programs, etc are not eligible. Many CEU opportunities are available within the Tri-cities area. Examples are SAPS programs, garden center programs, MG training classes, NETMGA programs, and horticultural tours.

Lists of volunteer and CEU opportunities for 2006 are available upon request. For 2006, at least 50% of your ACE hours should come from projects listed on the volunteer opportunities list. If you have a question about a volun-

teer project or educational program not listed currently, then call me at 423-279-2723.

In the past year, there have been some hours reported for ineligible reasons. The following are such examples:

- Personal lawn and garden work
- Lawn and garden work for neighbors
- Mowing the church lawn

Remember, volunteer "ACE" hours should benefit the community in some way. They should also educate the community. Ornamental beds around a church or community building have been questioned, but I realize they serve the MG program well by establishing a good rapport with the community. With these projects, let's strive to incorporate an educational component by identifying plants, by utilizing the garden for some type of educational program, or other educational emphasis.

The certification officer for NETMGA is Juana Quinones. She compiles the hours making it possible to report the hours to the state coordinator. Hours may be submitted on the paper report form or entered online on the website, mastergardener.tennessee.edu. If you enter the hours online, I suggest you keep your paper record as the website is still experiencing some difficulty. If you prefer to send the hours in via the paper report form, then you may either send it to me or to Juana. She may be reached at 423-245-3469. Keep in mind the deadline of September 30, 2006 for hours. I would also encourage you to submit hours periodically throughout the year instead of waiting until September.

Remember, the reporting of hours allows a formal documentation of the program in terms of an actual dollar value. So, keep sending in those hours. If you have any questions, call me at 423-279-2723.



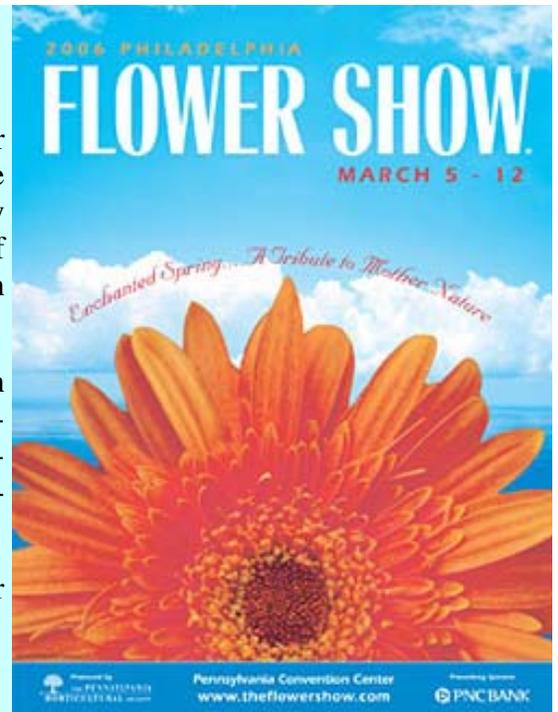
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available online from your
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PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW

There is still time to sign up for the bus trip to the Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens Tour on March 10–12, 2006. This is the largest flower show in the United States. Master Gardener Intern Judy Penley has attended five times and “loved every minute of it.” If enough people are interested, Sunshine Tours will arrange a pick up in Kingsport. Otherwise, attendees will catch the bus in Wytheville.

The Sunshine Tour leaves Friday morning. Guests spend two nights in New Jersey. The trip includes a 4 hour bus tour of Philadelphia, transportation to the flower show, and a tour of Longwood Gardens on Sunday before returning home. Flowers and plants are available for purchase and may be brought home on the bus.

For further information call Sunshine Tours at 1-800-552-0022, or Judy Penley at 357-3312 after 7:30 PM.



A LETTER FROM DOUG HILTON, OUR OUTGOING NETMGA PRESIDENT



NETMGA is only 3 years old, but look what we have achieved in that short time! Our future looks bright.

'05 saw the good work continuing on the butterfly & heirloom gardens located on the Kingsport GreenBelt. Our trip to U. T.K. for the Leadership Training Conference provided us a chance to see

how other M.G. groups across the State were functioning. We held a garden seminar for the public in Bristol. Our trip to Parks Seed/Wayside Gardens in Greenwood, S.C. was a blast! We have provided excellent programs for CEU hours, initiated outstanding projects, such as the rooftop healing garden at Johnson City Medical Center, which is on track to become a very good teaching area for us, staffed information booths at Farm Expo., Kingsport Home Show, Women's Expo. and at Exchange Place. A potting shed was built for ETSU. Projects undertaken by many volunteers at the Ap-

palachian Fairgrounds have garnered attention state-wide. We were invited to the East Region Fair meeting to show our projects at the fairgrounds. We will be attending the State Fair meeting in Nashville to show how/what we have accomplished locally. Wilson Co. MG's will team with us at this event.

Far and away the biggest feather in our cap was winning the right to host our Tennessee State MG conference in June '07. We will staff a booth at the Southern Regional MG meeting in June '06 in Chattanooga. It has been a great year for our organization; With an enthusiastic new class of MG's ready to go to work, a new President and Vice-President, I expect '06 to be a banner year for NETMGA.

I wish to thank each of you for making my year as President an enjoyable one. Please think about helping out in our projects, programs, and committees for '06. I apologize if I have forgotten any of the year's achievements.

Thanks again for all the help you each have given to our organization.

Doug

EDITORIAL

This is the first newsletter for the new editor, Jean Green and assistant editor, Kathy Francescon. We are very grateful to Matthew Mills, past editor, for all his help during this transition and to Junella McClellan, who really “puts it all together” and makes it look good! We are excited about our new “job” and hope the newsletter will be informative and helpful to all. If you have any information or ideas for the newsletter, we would love to hear from you! Perhaps you have a unique gardening tidbit, a special poem or favorite gardening story that you would like to share with us. Please contact Jean at greenfam2@chartertn.net or Kathy at auntkat@charter.net. (Please put the prefix “mg” in the title so we know that the message refers to Master Gardeners.) Thanks.

On behalf of the NETMGA, we would like to extend a hearty round of applause to Doug Hilton. Thank you for the leadership, all the hours of dedicated service and your many contributions to the Association this past year. We owe you a debt of gratitude!

Last but certainly not least, congratulations to Ellen. Madame President, you have our undivided attention, our complete support and best wishes for a successful and rewarding upcoming year.

ODE TO

MASTER GARDENING

I've loved my Tuesdays and Thursdays

The smiles, the chats, the hugs,

Herbs and fruit trees and grafting,

Soil tests, disease, and bugs!

Chris and Doug and the speakers,

Plants that need full sun,

The food, the recipes, the laughter,

It has all been so much fun!

I am a little sad it is over,

Our classes have come to an end,

But now my most treasured garden,

Is the garden I filled with new friends!

Kathy Francescon 11/01/05

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 2006**
- JAN 10** **NETMGA Recognition Dinner**
6:00 PM Gray Community Center
(Covered Dish Supper at 6:00, Program at 6:30)
Beginning January 2006,
meetings will be the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
- JAN 14** **Winter Garden Seminar on Native Wildflowers** 10:00 AM Warrior's Path State Park. Pre-registration requested. Call Marty Silver at 423-239-6786
- JAN 27-29** **Farm Expo** at Meadowview Convention Center, contact Doug Hilton to help
- FEB 6-7** **Kingsport Tree Keepers Seminar**
6-9 PM Warrior's Path State Park, Duck Island Recreation Building. Call Lewis Bausell 423-229-9352 or e-mail labland37@yahoo.com
- MAR 10-12** **Philadelphia Flower Show and Longwood Gardens Bus Trip**
- MAR 14** **Landscape Design Presentation**
NETMGA meeting – Gray Community Center
- JUNE 8-11** **Southern Regional MG Conference – Chattanooga**
- AUG 6** **Gray, TN (North East TN Region)**
Tennessee Urban Tree Care Program

Message from your new President....

I would like to wish all of you a most healthy, prosperous and happy New Year! A big thank-you to Doug Hilton and the officers, committee chairs and all members of NETMGA who have pitched in and made 2005 a year of noteworthy accomplishments...just review Doug's message for those!

In beginning this 2006 year as your President, I must say that I am "out of my comfort zone." I ask that you come on and jump into this growth zone with me!... We have the huge undertaking of hosting the State Master Gardener Conference at our own Marriott MeadowView Convention Center in June of '07. Let's plan on taking a large group of our membership to Chattanooga this June 8-11 for the Southern Regional MG Conference...we want to help out our neighbors, learning as much as possible from this experience and come home to finalize plans for our conference, which is scheduled for June 8-10 of '07. Mark your new calendars NOW for these events!

In addition to these special events, we have all our yearly activities... our meetings, community projects, classes, fun and educational trips, and efforts to improve communications with our membership and our local communities. NETMGA is unique in that we truly are a regional MG group... this has its advantages and challenges. One of my goals is to establish a fully functioning Communications/Publicity Committee... still to be defined, but under the umbrella of this committee I hope to see the establishment of a telephone tree to inform our membership when the newsletter is not available to do so, the placement of informative articles in local newspapers and the establishment of a website for our group, as an additional source of information and a place for members to post educational articles; another goal is to have more representation on all of our committees, which are building blocks of a strong organization.

Please join us for our first meeting of the year, our Recognition Dinner. Consider signing up for a committee or new project. Try to remember to wear your name badges, so that we can all get to know one another. Let's enjoy our shared interests in gardening as we continue to improve the quality of life in our region, make new friends, and show our communities what being a Master Gardener is all about!

Ellen

***Congratulations to 2006
NETMGA Officers***

2006

NORTHEAST TENNESSEE MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Ellen Hilderbrand
4205 Nickleby Ct.
Kingsport, TN 37663
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ellen421@juno.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Gwyn Duncan

SECRETARY

Lisa Bradley

TREASURER

LOIS BRONSON

CERTIFICATION OFFICER

Juana Quinones
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Kingsport, TN 37660
(423) 245-3469
qagroupjq@hotmail.com

PAST PRESIDENT

Doug Hilton
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(423)239-9433

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Jan Jones
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simpleintn@yahoo.com

PUBLICITY

To be announced



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Master Gardener Association
c/o
UT Extension Sullivan County
3258 Highway 126, Suite 104
Blountville, TN 37617

<http://mastergardeners.tennessee.edu>

TIME FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

NETMGA dues are payable January 1, 2006. Dues are \$15.00 per individual and \$25.00 for couples. Master Gardener Interns who completed their classwork in Nov. 2005 have already paid their dues for this year. Please complete the form below and mail it to Sebrina Bader, 284 Spurgeon Island Road, Gray, TN 37615.

2006 NETMGA Membership Dues

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed (payable to NETMGA) \$ _____

E-mail address _____ send newsletter to me by e-mail

Mail to: Sebrina Bader, 284 Spurgeon Island Road, Gray TN 37615